

LY HORSEMAN LEAVES BLUES

THE 17 year bond between Wycombe Wanderers and their favourite son Tony Horseman has come to an end. By mutual consent Horseman is leaving the Blues after one of the most illustrious careers in the history of the club.

On news of his departure about Horseman's retirement from Loakes Park, several clubs raced to obtain the services of this young 37-year-old who was Wycombe's leading scorer last season.

But it seems possible that Bodger may join his former Wanderers teammate John Delaney who last week took over as player-manager of Tring Town.

Tring, the ambitious Hertfordshire club who play in the Isthmian League Division Two, lost their manager for three years Cliff Stevens, because of a sudden departure of several players.

John Delaney, has been brought from Sutton to fill the breach and club secretary Derrick Smith, who lives and works in Wycombe, hopes that 'Big John' will bring with him some experienced players so that the club can flourish.

One of the players who would help in this cause is Horseman, of whom Mr Smith says, "I still think he can do a grand job for us. Tony has been one of our targets for the past couple of years. But of course, he was unavailable."

LOYALTY

This is because he was essentially loyal to Wycombe as long as both club and player thought he had something to offer. It was this loyalty that club chairman Reg Williams touched on when talking

about Horseman's retirement.

Mr Williams said: "Tony is the most loyal and skilful of club men. He set an example to the younger players of the old values. He devoted himself to Wycombe Wanderers and that quality is something sadly lacking in football today."

"There aren't enough adjectives to describe his service to Wycombe. So I would just like to say 'well done' and thank him for everything."

New manager Andy Williams, the former Enfield goalkeeper admitted he had been on the receiving end of Tony's shooting. He said: "Tony's given great service to the club and I'm sure that if he goes to Tring he will do well."

Mr Williams has also said goodbye to another old player in Roger Day, who came as a fill-in last season and stayed to play quite a number of league games. He is expected to go to Walton and Hersham.

After two friendlies behind closed doors with Reading and Addlestone, the new Wycombe Wanderers team comes before its fans tonight (Tuesday) for a match against the visiting Malawi team at Loakes Park. Kick-off is 7.30 pm.

To replace Horseman and Day, Mr Williams will test out several newcomers for that game. One of them is

defender Garry Fowles from Harrow Borough. He is a strong central defender who can also play at full-back. Another back-four man, Steve Hardwick, played a friendly for Blues at the back end of last season.

A new midfield man is Dave Allenson from Witney Town, while three possible strikers are Steve Long from Loughborough College and Burton Albion, Stewart Atkins (Chesham) and the former Chalfont St Peter Terry Scott who joined Andy Williams at Hitchin last season and played well against the Blues.

OLD FAVOURITES

Otherwise all the old favourites of John Maskell, Keith Mead, Alan Phillips, Bobby Davies, Mick, Holifield, Derek Harris and Dylan Evans will be there, for what should be an interesting game.

The Malawi side, managed of course by the former Blues boss, are currently on a tour of Britain and so far they have not tasted success. They lost 6-1 to Chelsea, 1-0 to Sutton and 4-0 to Wimbledon.

They have suffered badly from injuries but should nevertheless provide interesting opposition for Wycombe as they try to sort out their side for the opening Isthmian League game of the season at Dagenham on August 19.